

How to Avoid a Fuel Geyser

Follow these instructions when a Stihl saw is running poorly and “vapor lock” is suspected.

— Above all else: **DO NOT** open the tank! —

The following restart process should be started immediately.

Saws are air cooled and continue to build heat in the carburetor when not running.

1. Check Fuel level

If tank is over 1/2 full **DO NOT** open the tank.

2. Close Choke

Pull starter rope 20 times or until saw fires.

3. Once Saw Fires

Place choke lever in starting position.

4. Pull Starter Rope 10 Times or Until Saw Runs

5. If Saw Does Not Start

Discontinue use. Let saw cool completely. **DO NOT** open the tank.

6. Once Saw is Cool, Start this Process Over.

Key Points		
<i>A “hot” saw with a tank half or more full could geyser. Check fuel level before opening tank.</i>	<i>Newer Stihl saws (MS460/461) w/¼ turn gas caps are more prone to geyser.</i>	<i>Always assume fuel tanks and fuel containers are pressurized.</i>
<i>Move away >20’ from open flame before refueling or opening gas tank.</i>	<i>Open cap slowly and cover to contain potential spray.</i>	<i>Saws take a considerable amount of time to cool to a safe level (up to 45 minutes).</i>